

# Concept note for the 4th Regional Dialogue Platform in Latin America and the Caribbean on Anticipatory Action

## Scaling up and integration in disaster risk management systems

**28-29 September 2022, Antigua, Guatemala**

*Simultaneous Spanish-English translation will be available during the sessions.*

### Context

The Guatemalan Red Cross is pleased to invite you to the **4th Regional Dialogue Platform in Latin America and the Caribbean on Anticipatory Action**. This event is organized by the Anticipation Hub and organized by the German Red Cross and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the support of its partners: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office.

### Objectives

- Promote dialogue between humanitarian, disaster risk management, scientific and strategic partners in the region.
- Advocate about the importance of early action and identify opportunities for its implementation.
- Promote the exchange of good practices and lessons learned from forecast-based financing (FbF) and anticipatory action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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- Share progress and new initiatives on conceptualization, methodologies and tools on anticipatory action at the global and regional levels.
- Generate a joint work agenda for scaling up anticipatory action in the region.

## Participants

The **Regional Dialogue Platform** aims to engage humanitarian actors in the region, institutions that integrate national risk-management systems, international agencies, meteorological institutes, academia, civil society organizations and other organizations with initiatives framed in anticipatory action and resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The event sessions during the mornings of 28 and September will be broadcast live to provide the opportunity for those who cannot participate in person.

## Background

The last decade has seen an exceptional turnaround in anticipatory action. Acting in advance of a disaster to safeguard lives and livelihoods is not only now a widely accepted concept but is increasingly integrated into the work of the humanitarian system, thanks to the momentum and commitment of a large and complementary network of actors in the political, scientific, academic and practice arenas.

**Anticipatory action** provides an opportunity to mitigate the impacts of different hazards affecting the most vulnerable populations and their livelihoods, allowing governments, at-risk populations and the humanitarian community to act before disasters occur or before they reach a threshold, as soon as they are foreseen, and a warning signal appears.

These actions can be implemented through cash transfer programmes (in cash/cash-based transfers); the delivery of goods and services such as seeds, tools and irrigation systems, among others; through programmes that combine cash and goods, services, and inputs; as well as through the delivery of training and awareness campaigns according to the needs of the community. They do not comprise isolated events, but should be inserted in a risk management system, framed in an effort to build resilience, and linked to monitoring, forecasts and alerts, giving rise to a system of anticipatory action.

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As of 2015 in Latin America, the Peruvian Red Cross, Ecuadorian Red Cross, Costa Rican Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Guatemalan Red Cross, Argentine Red Cross, Nicaraguan Red Cross, Salvadoran Red Cross and Colombian Red Cross, with the support of the German Red Cross, the Climate Centre, the IFRC and WFP, have contributed significantly in the region to the development of the FbF mechanism for anticipating disasters and crises.

FbF is a paradigm shift from reaction to anticipation; it is an innovative mechanism that uses reliable forecasts, thresholds, and impact analysis to enable the timely disbursement of funds to implement early actions before an extreme event occurs in highly vulnerable communities. FbF seeks to strengthen the capacities of key actors in national risk-management systems, especially Red Cross National Societies, through capacity building in prospective and corrective risk management.

In the region, WFP has also collaborated with disaster management, social development, meteorological services and other agencies to develop FbF programmes in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

To promote the importance of disaster and crisis anticipation, share experiences and disseminate lessons learned, the German Red Cross, WFP and the Anticipation Hub have led the establishment of a global community of practice that meets annually (at national, regional, and global levels) in spaces called '**Dialogue Platforms**'.

The Regional Dialogue Platforms held in the Americas (Arequipa, Peru in 2018; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic in 2019; and Panama City, Panama in 2021) have been envisioned as a decisive space for analysis, discussion and learning on anticipation in the continent, as well as to promote inter-institutional cooperation among key actors.

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